

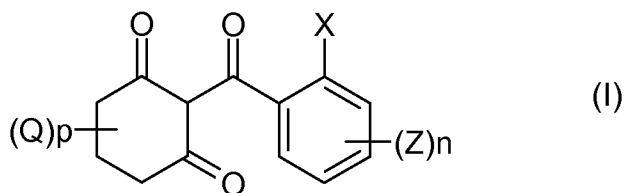
Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1 and 8 – 10 and cancel claim 7 as indicated in the listing below without prejudice to the subject matter involved. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition comprising:

- (i) a metal chelate of a 2-(substituted benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione of formula (I)



wherein X represents a halogen atom; a straight- or branched-chain alkyl or alkoxy group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more groups – OR¹ or one or more halogen atoms; or a group selected from nitro, cyano, -CO₂R², -S(O)_mR¹, -O(CH₂)_rOR¹, -COR², -NR²R³, -SO₂NR²R³, -CONR²R³, -CSNR²R³ and -OSO₂R₄;

R¹ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R² and R³ each independently represents a hydrogen atom; or a straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms which is optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms;

R⁴ represents a straight- or branched-chain alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group containing up to six carbon atoms optionally substituted by one or more halogen atoms; or a cycloalkyl group containing from three to six carbon atoms;

each Z independently represents halo, nitro, cyano, S(O)_mR⁵, OS(O)_mR⁵,

(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₁-C₆)haloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)haloalkoxy, carboxy,

(C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyl, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkylamino, (C₁-C₆)dialkylamino having independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonylamino,

(C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonylamino, (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonylamino,

(C₁-C₆)dialkylaminocarbonylamino having independently the stated number of carbon atoms in each alkyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyloxy,

(C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyloxy, (C₁-C₆)dialkylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonyl, substituted phenylcarbonyl, phenylcarbonyloxy, substituted phenylcarbonyloxy, phenylcarbonylamino, substituted phenylcarbonylamino, phenoxy or substituted phenoxy;

R⁵ represents cyano, -COR⁶, -CO₂R⁶ or S(O)_mR⁷;

R⁶ represents hydrogen or straight- or branched-chain alkyl group containing up to six carbon atoms;

R⁷ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)haloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)cyanoalkyl,

(C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl optionally substituted with halogen, cyano or (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or phenyl optionally substituted with one to three of the same or different halogen, nitro, cyano, (C₁-C₄)haloalkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₄)alkoxy or -S(O)_mR⁸;

R⁸ represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl;

each Q independently represents (C₁-C₄)alkyl or -CO₂R⁹ wherein R⁹ is

(C₁-C₄)alkyl;

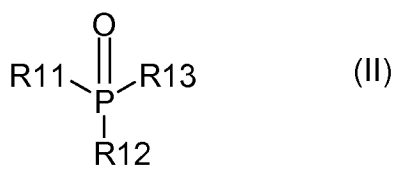
m is zero, one or two;

n is zero or an integer from one to four;

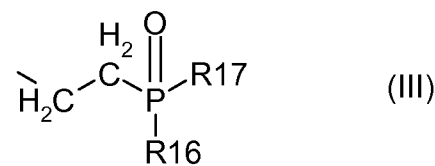
r is one, two or three; and

p is zero or an integer from one to six; and

- (ii) an organic phosphate, phosphonate or phosphinate adjuvant, wherein the phosphate, phosphonate or phosphinate adjuvant is a compound of formula II



wherein R¹¹ is an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ wherein R¹⁴ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl, t is from 0 to 50 and R¹⁵ is hydrogen or an alkyl group containing from 1 to 20 carbon atoms; and R¹² and R¹³ are independently (i) an alkyl or alkenyl group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms; (ii) optionally substituted phenyl; (iii) an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or (iv) a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined; or (v) a group of formula (III)



wherein R¹⁶ is an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined and R¹⁷ is an alkyl group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, optionally substituted phenyl, an alkoxy group containing from 4 to 20 carbon atoms or a group -[OCH₂CHR¹⁴]_t-OR¹⁵ as herein defined; and wherein t is from 0 to ten.

Claim 2 (Original) A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein X is chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -S(O)_mR¹, or -OR¹.

Claim 3 (Previously presented) A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein each Z is independently chloro, bromo, nitro, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -CF₃, -OR¹, -OS(O)_mR⁵ or -S(O)_mR⁵.

Claim 4 (Previously presented) A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein n is one or two.

Claim 5 (Previously presented) A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein p is zero.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) A herbicidal composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is selected from the group consisting of 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2'-nitro-4'-methylsulphonyloxy benzoyl)-1,3-

cyclohexanedione, 2-(2'-chloro-4'-methylsulphonylbenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 4,4-dimethyl-2-(4-methanesulphonyl-2-nitrobenzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione, 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-methanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione and 2-(2-chloro-3-ethoxy-4-ethanesulphonylbenzoyl)-5-methyl-1,3-cyclohexanedione.

Claim 7. Canceled

Claim 8. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition according to claim 7 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphate in which R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} are all independently alkoxy groups.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition according to claim 7 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphonate in which R^{11} and R^{12} are both independently alkoxy groups and R^{13} is an alkyl, alkenyl or optionally substituted phenyl group.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) A herbicidal composition according to claim 7 1, wherein the compound of formula (II) is a phosphinate in which R^{11} is an alkoxy group and R^{12} and R^{13} are both independently an alkyl, alkenyl or optionally substituted phenyl group.

Claim 11. (Previously presented) A process for the control of weeds, said process comprising applying to the locus of the weeds a herbicidally effective amount of a composition as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) A method of improving the selectivity of a metal chelate of a 2-(substituted benzoyl)-1,3-cyclohexanedione of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, when applied to unwanted vegetation in a crop of useful plants, said method comprising the applying of a herbicidally effective amount of a composition as claimed in claim 1.